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# Arrest of Taiwan Publisher

Penalizing Lei Chen for Political Activity Is Protested

To the Editor of The New York Times:  
I want to thank you for your editorial (Sept. 11) regarding the Chinese Nationalist's arrest of Lei Chen on Taiwan.

Lei Chen is my father. He served his country and his people for many years in various high official positions and has been fighting for democracy, freedom and human rights as the respected publisher of the widely read and influential magazine, Free China, and the head of an effort to organize the Chinese Democratic party as a legal anti-Communist opposition group on Taiwan.

The charges and statements about the Nationalist Government's magazine are not calculated to "preach open rebellion." They are printed to "petition the Government for a redress of grievances"; to expose the unsavory behaviors of corrupt bureaucrats and to criticize the shortcomings of Government policies. They are printed to hasten progress, encourage dynamism and increase democratization.

My father's effort to organize a new political group is designed to preserve the right of opposition and dissent, and certainly not to overthrow the Nationalist Government.

I do not understand how these acts constitute sedition, with which he was charged for his arrest and is to be tried for in military courts.

If Taiwan is a "stable and thriving democracy" as she claims, then a sober, second thought on this matter should certainly be given by the Nationalist Government.

But if this arrest is a despotic move by the authorities to oppress freedom of speech and to abuse basic human rights, then I desperately plead to all Americans, the free world and everyone concerned with democracy and freedom to do something before it is too late. For it is tyranny and despotism such as this that fomented the tragedy of Korea, Cuba and the China mainland.

EMILY LEE WONG  
Elizabeth, N. J., Sept. 11, 1980

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